Hongkong, 14. March, 1859.

My dear Dr. Gray,

I received ℘ "Charmer" your note of 16. October last, together with a box of botanical specimens and books, for all of which pray accept my best acknowledgements. The plants were all in most Excellent condition, and I have already commenced going through them, comparing them with their characters, and distributing them into their various places in my herbarium. It so happens that I had, just previous to their receipt, got a small parcel of Lapland plants from Prof. Parlatore, & it is curious to notice how some of these reappear on the White Mts:

in New Hampshire. European boreal
plants & those of the United States
are amongst the most welcome to
me, having so strong an affinity to
those found in Mantchuria and
Japan. I can assure you that I
duly appreciate your very munificent
present of books. The Botanical Reports
of the Pacific Railway Route Surveys
are most interesting, and I have for
some time been anxious to procure
them, whilst the various little tracts
are of course quite unobtainable from
booksellers. The letter which was to
have been sent by <u>overland</u> mail, in
respect to the collections forwarded
pr "Charmer," has not yet come to
hand. We are in weekly expectation
of the arrival of Mr. Bruce, our new
Plenipotentiary & Minister to Peking,
and this and the departmental changes
which his coming and the opening
of the new Ports will occasion, and
the uncertainty I am in as to where
I may be despatched prevent me
from paying that attention <u>just</u>
<u>now</u> to Botany which a more even
~~p~~ ~~quite~~ quiet life would enable me to
devote to it. It is my wish to
leave China and go to Japan,
and if I am successful, I hope
I shall be able soon to give you
substantial proofs that I have
not slackened in my devotion to
the "amabilis scientia", and how
much I value your correspondence.

Pray believe me to be,
My dear Dr. Gray,
Very sincerely Yours
H. F. Hance.

Kind remembrances to Mr. Wright.